

SUNDAY, AUGUST 27, 1905.
Partly cloudy to-day; to-morrow partly
cloudy, showers in the afternoon.

THREE LOST IN HOTEL FIRE.

BODIES OF THE MARTIN FAMILY IN MARANCOOK RUINS.

Parents Die Trying to Save Their Son—Young Hotel Clerk a Hero, Saving Many Persons and Himself Being So Badly Hurt That He May Die—W. J. Maxwell of Brooklyn Was Injured.

MARANCOOK, Me., Aug. 26.—As the result of the burning of Hotel Maranook early this morning, three people lost their lives and a fourth, a young man, who for the second time within thirty-six hours proved himself a hero, is lying at a cottage here in a critical condition.

It was not known until this forenoon that any lives had been lost, but in hunting over the ruins three charred bodies were found which proved to be those of Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Martin of Roslindale, Mass., and their six-year-old boy, Spencer. The hero of the occasion is Robert Deway Boutwell, 17 years old, of Melrose, Mass., who was clerk in the hotel. (He is suffering from burns and is believed to have contracted pneumonia.)

Nearly 100 guests were in the hotel and many were forced to jump, scantily clad, from the windows. The fire, which is believed to have been caused by a defective flue, spread with such rapidity that the guests lost nearly all their clothing and other personal effects.

Mrs. W. J. Maxwell of Brooklyn lost jewelry valued at \$700 and her husband sprained his ankle by jumping. Mrs. George H. Hassan of Needham, Mass., has a broken leg and an sprained ankle. Her condition is serious.

The fire was discovered by a train crew and they gave the alarm. As soon as Boutwell was awakened upon the doors to arouse the guests. In response to his cries, "The house is all alive; hurry up or you will be burned alive," the guests rushed from their rooms and began their desperate efforts to escape from the building, which was rapidly being consumed. The corridors were filled with smoke, and the flames swept up the stairways, so that all guests above the second floor were forced to escape by jumping from the windows.

When Boutwell rushed from the hotel he was hit on the head by a grip thrown from an upper window. The blow knocked him down. When he revived he ran three times through the flames and smoke and assisted in the rescue of several persons. Several times he ascended a ladder and, by clinging to the window sill, lifted some half suffocated person to a place of safety.

The Martins lost their lives in an attempt to save their boy, who became panic-stricken and would not jump from the window. They occupied rooms next to the Maxwells. The Maxwells heard the Martins telling their boy to jump. The little fellow screamed in terror and ran out into the hall. The father and mother rushed after him. The smoke in the hall was dense.

They tapped on the door of the Maxwells' room and then cried out: "We're stifling." The Maxwells opened their door and as they did so a dense volume of smoke rolled in upon them. That was the last they saw of the Martins. Mr. Maxwell left his wife down with a blanket and he jumped.

Boutwell's work this morning was the second demonstration of bravery by him in thirty-six hours. On Tuesday night Miss Margaret Herman was in a small boat, which was struck and demolished by the steamer Maranook, throwing Miss Herman into the water. She was unable to swim and Boutwell, who was a passenger on the steamer, dived from the rail and went to the rescue of the drowning girl, who was almost exhausted by her efforts to keep above the water. Boutwell managed to keep her head above the surface until assistance reached them from the steamer. He is preparing for college at Colby Academy and is an excellent athlete.

HELD UP BY SOLDIERS.

Yacht Captain Says They Knocked Him Out and Robbed Him—Two Held.

NEW ROCHELLE, N. Y., Aug. 26.—Private Patrick Kane and John A. Sullivan of the Eighth United States Infantry at Fort Snocum were held to-day by Police Judge Van Aken for the Grand Jury on the charge of highway robbery. The complainant was John Olson, captain of the yacht Rosemary, owned by Converse D. Marsh. He was set upon about 1 o'clock this morning at the New Rochelle dock by a gang of soldiers, who threw him down and gagged him and went through his pockets. The soldiers took his money and left him unconscious. Privates Kane and Sullivan were arrested and Olson identified them as two of his assailants. Both denied that they had anything to do with the robbery.

TRAIN KILLS W. E. STONE.

Architect Is Run Down at Princeton Junction—None Saw Accident.

PRINCETON, N. J., Aug. 26.—William E. Stone, a New York architect, with offices at 15 Broadway, was found dead on the tracks of the Pennsylvania Railroad at Princeton Junction about midnight last night and it will probably never be known how he was killed.

Mr. Stone, who had considerable business here, was detained longer than usual in Princeton yesterday, and in order to get a train for New York, he was obliged to hire a cabman to drive him three miles to Princeton Junction. The train had to be flagged, and after landing his fare at the platform, Gabriel, the cabman told his horse under a nearby shed and returned to the station to set the signal.

Mr. Stone had disappeared, and the cabman, thinking he had gone to the tower some distance up the tracks, made inquiries there, but Mr. Stone had not been seen. As Gabriel came out of the tower, a night watchman came up.

"There's a man's leg laying on the tracks at the depot; I wonder where it came from," he said.

The cabman, accompanied by the night watchman, searched the tracks and finally found the mangled trunk. But for a letter in his pocket, recognition would have been impossible. How Mr. Stone came to be killed is a mystery, but it is thought that he walked across the tracks instead of taking the tunnel, lost his bearings in the dark, and was hit by the train.

Friends in Princeton were at once notified and the body was shipped to New York this afternoon. Mr. Stone leaves a wife and child, and two brothers who live in New York city.

ATLANTA'S MAYOR DEFIANT.

Majority of City Council Said to Be in Favor of Woodward's Impeachment.

ATLANTA, Ga., Aug. 26.—The Common Council of Atlanta is preparing a warm reception for Mayor Woodward, who made a scene at the municipality convention in Toledo. This afternoon it was decided to hold a special meeting of the Council on Monday, when Mayor Woodward is expected to resign. The special meeting is called for the purpose of considering the conduct of the Mayor, and it is said that a majority of the Council is pledged to work for the impeachment of Woodward.

The Mayor was still in Toledo this afternoon and wired a message of defiance which has increased the indignation. Evidence is being procured from officers of the Municipal League who witnessed the outbreak of the Mayor to support an impeachment charge.

Sentiment in favor of ousting the Mayor is general. Versing this sentiment, the Atlanta Journal has an editorial saying:

"There would be no disposition on our part to curtail the Mayor's blubious pleasures so long as he worships Bacchus in private. If he gets drunk in his private capacity it is his own business chiefly. But in this case he was representing Atlanta, and the Council should call him to account for his failure to uphold the dignity and prestige of Atlanta. Atlanta wanted the League of American Municipalities to meet here next year. Is it any wonder, after the scene created by Atlanta's inebriated Mayor, that the proposition was turned down? Woodward has forced Atlanta to share his disgrace before the eyes of all the world, and the Council should act promptly."

PREY ON AMERICAN MOTORISTS.

Swiss Authorities Impose Excessive Fines—Peasants Stone Touring Autos.

Special Cable Despatch to The Sun.

LONDON, Aug. 26.—American motorists complain of the treatment they have received in Switzerland, where a bitter anti-motor craze has broken out. All of them report narrow escapes from injury at the hands of Swiss peasants, men and women, who bombard the motorists with stones and bottles. In one place near Zurich a woman farmer rushed at a car with a pitchfork and the chauffeur received a serious wound in the arm while trying to protect his head.

The Swiss authorities are likewise animated by animosity toward the motorists, and the American Consul at Bern in one week received twenty-one complaints.

Americans have been fined as high as 500 francs for excessive speed when they were not proceeding at more than four miles an hour. A particularly outrageous case was that of a motor car which followed a hay rack for miles, when it was stopped and a fine of 300 francs imposed. As half of the fine goes to the prefect of police there is little likelihood of this practice being stopped.

PLOT OF ANTI-MCCARRENTES.

Senator's Foes Are Talking of Running an Independent Local Ticket.

The latest exciting political rumor in Brooklyn points to the possible placing in the field of an independent Democratic local ticket by the anti-McCarren forces. It is admitted on all sides that the recent efforts of the McCarren to stop and close a deal yesterday in which they purchased from James Caffrey 1,500 feet of ocean front in Far Rockaway, thirty acres of upland, fifteen acres of meadow land, the Kuloff Hotel and five cottages for \$500,000. The property takes in the entire beach front of Far Rockaway, and includes 3,000 bathing houses.

The new syndicate will tear down the bathing houses and erect one of the largest bathing pavilions in the United States. It will also put up another big hotel, lay out a fifteen acre park, and erect a private golf course. Three enterprises will privately outlay equal to the sum paid for the property. Mr. Caffrey inherited the property from his father. It has been in the possession of his family for a hundred years or more.

SURE TO GET ALL SIX OF HIM.

French Police Has Made Five Arrests From Photographs of One Man Wanted.

Special Cable Despatch to The Sun.

PARIS, Aug. 26.—The supporters of M. Bertillon and his system of identification of criminals are rejoicing over a conspicuous failure recently of photography in this class of work. The headquarters of the Paris police recently wanted a missing thief and had proofs made of six photographs of the criminal, taken in different positions. The various police stations in the country received sets of the photographs.

Shortly after the receipt of the photographs one local chief in a small town wrote as follows to the headquarters in Paris: "Photographs of the accused persons duly to hand. I am happy to inform you that I have arrested five of them, whom I am retaining in cells. I am on the track of the sixth and will certainly capture him before long."

STILL HOPE OF DOUGLAS.

Guest Talks as if the Governor Might Run Again.

BOSTON, Aug. 26.—Col. William A. Gaston was asked to-day if he thought Gov. Douglas would be the party candidate for Governor.

"Undoubtedly, if he wants the nomination," replied the Colonel.

"Do you expect that the situation will remain as it is up to the time the convention meets and that then the Governor will be renominated without his saying anything further as to his attitude?"

"I should hardly think so. I should suppose the Governor would make some kind of an announcement as to his attitude, and if he is willing to accept a renomination that he would say so. I certainly hope that he will do so and that he will consent to be a candidate."

There is unquestionably a wide and sincere demand that he run again. I have heard it from many quarters, not only from Democrats, but from business men who are not in politics, who approve his administration and want another chance to vote for him. There are some elements that would be lacking from this campaign, which were of strength in the campaign last year, but with Gov. Douglas as the candidate again the party would stand a very good chance of winning, and I hope he will decide to run."

650 E. to Colorado and RETURN, via Erie Railroad. Information, 300-110 Broadway, N. Y. 225 Fulton St., Brooklyn.—Ad.

ODD CHARGE AGAINST WOMAN.

MAN ACCUSES HER OF STEALING HIS POCKETBOOK.

Has Her Arrested on Elevated Train, and Then Withdraws Complaint—Woman Had Set Next to Him—Missed Wallet—Holds Up Train to Have Arrest Made.

Mrs. Florence M. Jackson of Sixteenth and Wallace streets, Philadelphia, was arrested at the Ninety-ninth street station of the Third Avenue elevated road last night charged with stealing a pocketbook containing \$27 from Alfred Cashner of 2078 Madison avenue. She was taken to the East 104th street police station by Detective Gordon, but Cashner withdrew his complaint and she was released.

Mrs. Jackson, who is a widow, was returning from Bayshore, L. I., with Mrs. M. T. Patterson of 1824 North Park avenue, Philadelphia, and David F. White of 314 West 126th street, who was a clerk under Mayors Grace and Cooper.

They had been staying at Mr. White's summer home at Bayshore, and got on the elevated train at Thirty-fourth street. Mrs. Jackson sat next to Cashner. Mrs. Patterson and White, sat on the other side of the car, directly opposite.

At Forty-second street Mrs. Jackson crossed over and sat with the other two. Cashner felt for his pocketbook and found that it was gone.

Jumping to his feet, he pointed to Mrs. Jackson, and said:

"You have stolen my pocketbook."

"Is this a joke?" asked Mr. White. "If a joke, it's one you will pay for dearly. This lady has no need to steal your pocketbook; she has plenty of money."

Cashner insisted that Mrs. Jackson had sat next to him, that he had the pocketbook when he sat down and that Mrs. Jackson must have taken it. Cashner insisted on the guard stopping the train until a policeman could be found to arrest Mrs. Jackson. The car was well filled and passengers became excited.

At Eighty-ninth street the motorman began tooting a distress signal, and when the train pulled into the Ninety-ninth street station there were nine policemen and several detectives waiting. A large crowd had gathered in the street, expecting that returning baseball enthusiasts had been rioting on the train.

Cashner told the police his story and Detective Gordon arrested Mrs. Jackson. At the East 104th street station house Mrs. Jackson demanded that she be searched. Capt. Brennan asked Cashner if he had seen or even felt Mrs. Jackson take the pocketbook. Cashner admitted he had not, and was finally persuaded to withdraw his complaint.

A large crowd had gathered outside the station house and Mrs. Jackson became frightened and then hysterical. After the police had cleared the crowd she left with Mr. White and Mrs. Patterson.

FAR ROCKAWAY BEACH SOLD.

New Yorkers Pay \$500,000 for It and Will Spend as Much in Improvements.

Samuel Green, a real estate operator, of 35 Nassau street, Manhattan, with Maximilian Morgenthau, president of the Hudson Realty Company; Samuel Jacobs, treasurer of the same company, and Sam Brodsky, a dealer in real estate, in which they purchased from James Caffrey 1,500 feet of ocean front in Far Rockaway, thirty acres of upland, fifteen acres of meadow land, the Kuloff Hotel and five cottages for \$500,000. The property takes in the entire beach front of Far Rockaway, and includes 3,000 bathing houses.

The new syndicate will tear down the bathing houses and erect one of the largest bathing pavilions in the United States. It will also put up another big hotel, lay out a fifteen acre park, and erect a private golf course. Three enterprises will privately outlay equal to the sum paid for the property. Mr. Caffrey inherited the property from his father. It has been in the possession of his family for a hundred years or more.

SPECIAL INSPECTOR FIRED.

George F. Wilson Impeached in the Senate—Mitchell Land Fraud Cases.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 26.—Special Inspector George F. Wilson of the Interior Department was dismissed to-day by Secretary Hitchcock on account of disclosures made during the investigation of the charges against Senator Mitchell of Oregon.

Some of the witnesses examined during the investigation testified that Wilson had promised for a consideration to make favorable recommendation in some land cases in which they were interested, one of them declaring Wilson had been paid \$300 in one instance.

Wilson admitted to the authorities that he had received the money, but declared that he had taken it to entrap the man, and the amount was to be returned to him. This explanation was not considered satisfactory, and Wilson was removed. He was appointed from Rhode Island.

HIS HOME WAS HIS CASTLE.

Evans, Who Killed the Detective Who Tried to Enter, Is Acquitted.

BOSTON, Aug. 26.—Joseph Evans, the Somerville man who shot and killed George Fraser, a private detective, when he and several others were trying to get into Evans' house, was acquitted of the charge of murder to-day by Justice Butler of the Somerville police court. Detective Fraser was in company with two other detectives and A. J. Barber of Woonsocket, husband of Evans' housekeeper. The party called at Evans' house late on the night of Aug. 1 and after Evans had opened the door they tried to crowd in. A scuffle ensued between Evans and Fraser, the former shooting the detective dead. In making his decision Justice Butler said:

"Mr. Barber had been notified by the defendant not to enter his house. This was a standing notice and given in writing. He had no right to either break into or in any other manner enter the defendant's house unless invited so to do by Evans. No one of the party was an officer of the law, and they were there without a legal process to serve. As Barber was not privileged to enter the house, of course none of his employees, private detectives, had that right."

SENATOR PLATT'S CLAMBAKE.

Entertains Neighbors at His Orange County Summer Lodge—Mrs. Platt Assists.

MIDDLETOWN, N. Y., Aug. 26.—United States Senator Thomas C. Platt gave a clambake to-day at his Toga summer lodge on the shores of Cromwell Lake, at Central Valley, Orange county. The bake was an informal affair. Twenty-five of the Senator's neighbors were present. The bake was served on the lawn near the Senator's bungalow. Mr. Platt was in a happy mood and enjoyed the affair fully. Mrs. Platt assisted the Senator in entertaining his neighbors.

IOWA WAS IN COLLISION, TOO.

Battleship Man into the Brenton Reef Lightship.

NEWPORT, R. I., Aug. 26.—In the thick fog which prevailed off Newport on Thursday last in which the battleship Keokuk collided with the schooner Gallop, the battleship Iowa was also in collision, this fact being made known to-day when Capt. Fogarty of the Brenton Reef lightship came to the city for the first time in a week. Capt. Fogarty says that about five o'clock on Thursday afternoon, when the fog was the thickest, the battleship Iowa ran down the lightship, striking her on the bow and carrying away the stem of the lightship seven feet above the level of the sea; and carrying away the head stays. The blow was a glancing one or the lightship would have been sunk.

The Iowa was running at five knots at the time, and after clearing the lightship stood in toward Brenton's Reef. The fog was so thick that those on the lightship could not hear the whistle of the battleship and it is presumed that the lightship's whistle could not be heard on the battleship. Capt. Fogarty says that it will be necessary to take his vessel off the station at once to make repairs.

FOR NEW SOUTH AMERICAN PORT.

United States Capital to Have Some Share in \$40,000,000 Project.

Special Cable Despatch to The Sun.

LONDON, Aug. 26.—Americans are now taking a hand in what is probably one of the biggest schemes ever proposed for the development of South America. The port of Buenos Ayres being too shallow to admit big steamers, a concession was recently granted to Arturo Castano for the construction of a new port in the Bay of Samborombon, fifty miles toward the Atlantic along the River Plate.

The scheme involves an expenditure of about \$3,000,000. Most of this amount has already been underwritten in Paris. The bankers Ransvick and Giers have already advanced \$1,500,000 for the construction of the port, the contract for which has been undertaken by the firm of Wills of Manchester. Separate subsidiary companies are now being formed for reclamation works, the construction of a canal and township and a big system of railways, which will radiate inland in all directions and connect existing lines with Buenos Ayres.

One of the companies will be for furnishing electric lighting and power, over which it is understood the General Electric Company will assume control.

WARRANT OUT FOR MADDEN.

Sentenced to Serve Thirty Days and Pay \$250 for Contempt—Deputies After Him.

John E. Madden, the well known turfman, was adjudged guilty of contempt of court by Supreme Court Justice Burr in Brooklyn yesterday and sentenced to serve thirty days in jail and to pay a fine of \$250 for failure to obey an order of the court. This directed him to appear before a commissioner in Saratoga county and give testimony in a suit for divorce brought against him by his wife, Annie Louise Madden, in the Ohio courts.

Mrs. Madden sought to obtain information regarding her husband's income, and a commission was appointed to take his testimony in Saratoga county, but Mr. Madden, acting on the advice of his counsel, refused to be sworn. Then the present proceedings were taken to have him adjudged guilty of contempt of court.

While Mrs. Madden is suing her husband for a divorce in Ohio, he is also suing her for a divorce in Kentucky, where he alleges he has a legal residence. A bench warrant was issued for Madden's arrest. It was given to Sheriff Hesterberg to serve, and yesterday afternoon he sent four deputies to look for Mr. Madden.

SPECIAL INSPECTOR FIRED.

George F. Wilson Impeached in the Senate—Mitchell Land Fraud Cases.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 26.—Special Inspector George F. Wilson of the Interior Department was dismissed to-day by Secretary Hitchcock on account of disclosures made during the investigation of the charges against Senator Mitchell of Oregon.

Some of the witnesses examined during the investigation testified that Wilson had promised for a consideration to make favorable recommendation in some land cases in which they were interested, one of them declaring Wilson had been paid \$300 in one instance.

Wilson admitted to the authorities that he had received the money, but declared that he had taken it to entrap the man, and the amount was to be returned to him. This explanation was not considered satisfactory, and Wilson was removed. He was appointed from Rhode Island.

HIS HOME WAS HIS CASTLE.

Evans, Who Killed the Detective Who Tried to Enter, Is Acquitted.

BOSTON, Aug. 26.—Joseph Evans, the Somerville man who shot and killed George Fraser, a private detective, when he and several others were trying to get into Evans' house, was acquitted of the charge of murder to-day by Justice Butler of the Somerville police court. Detective Fraser was in company with two other detectives and A. J. Barber of Woonsocket, husband of Evans' housekeeper. The party called at Evans' house late on the night of Aug. 1 and after Evans had opened the door they tried to crowd in. A scuffle ensued between Evans and Fraser, the former shooting the detective dead. In making his decision Justice Butler said:

"Mr. Barber had been notified by the defendant not to enter his house. This was a standing notice and given in writing. He had no right to either break into or in any other manner enter the defendant's house unless invited so to do by Evans. No one of the party was an officer of the law, and they were there without a legal process to serve. As Barber was not privileged to enter the house, of course none of his employees, private detectives, had that right."

SENATOR PLATT'S CLAMBAKE.

Entertains Neighbors at His Orange County Summer Lodge—Mrs. Platt Assists.

MIDDLETOWN, N. Y., Aug. 26.—United States Senator Thomas C. Platt gave a clambake to-day at his Toga summer lodge on the shores of Cromwell Lake, at Central Valley, Orange county. The bake was an informal affair. Twenty-five of the Senator's neighbors were present. The bake was served on the lawn near the Senator's bungalow. Mr. Platt was in a happy mood and enjoyed the affair fully. Mrs. Platt assisted the Senator in entertaining his neighbors.

ROOSEVELT PLAN BEFORE ENVOYS.

President Suggests Basis of Peace Which Keeps the Conference Open.

WILL MEET AGAIN MONDAY.

Has Strongly Urged Russians to Accept Japan's Offer of Sale of Sakhalin.

Roosevelt's Suggestions Said to Be Such as Would Receive Support of All Neutral Powers—Reported Russian Offer to "Give Up" All of Sakhalin if Japan Will Waive Indemnity Demand—White and Komura Talk Over the Situation After Transaction of Routine Business.

PORTSMOUTH, N. H., Aug. 26.—The vital question of whether there shall be peace or war between Russia and Japan depends for settlement mainly on the amount of influence President Roosevelt can bring to bear upon the two belligerents. He does not hold the key to the situation, but to him belongs the credit of having prevented a rupture of the Portsmouth conference which would mean a resumption of the Far Eastern hostilities.

Had it not been for the strenuous endeavors of the President the break would have come to-day. As it was, there has been an adjournment of the conference until Monday to give Mr. Roosevelt the opportunity of making further representations.

PRESIDENT SUGGESTS BASIS FOR PEACE.

There is the highest authority for the statement that the President has within the last three or four days made a definite proposal to both Russia and Japan to be used as a basis for the adjustment of their differences. While the details of this important move on the President's part are not disclosed, it is admitted that it is of a character so entirely sane and reasonable that the Powers of Europe would virtually insist upon its acceptance by the two warring nations if they knew of its character and scope.

But for the present Mr. Roosevelt is working entirely with Russia and Japan, neither of whom, however, is yet willing to bring forward the President's plan of settlement, partly for the reason that it is contrary to the basis upon which they have been negotiating, and partly because, if the details of the matter became public, there would be an immediate insistance on the part of the neutral Powers that the belligerents get together in accordance with the suggestions outlined from Oyster Bay.

The understanding obtained here with regard to the President's proposition is that it was made known to the respective envoys through their Governments. This appears to account for the positive statements of those in authority on the Russian side that Mr. Roosevelt confined his communications to the plenipotentiaries to a general tender of good offices and did not make any specific suggestions.

SITUATION FREELY DISCUSSED.

But whether the President in his direct exchanges with the envoys did or did not make any specific propositions is now a matter of no consequence in the knowledge that a plan prepared and indorsed by him has been placed before Mr. Witte and Baron Komura and has received the most serious consideration.

It is a fact, however, that in the week that has passed since President Roosevelt had his interview at Oyster Bay with Baron Rosen, Mr. Witte's colleague, the President has had a comprehensive correspondence by telegraph and through the medium of special messengers with both Russian and Japanese envoys, in which every point of difference was discussed in the minutest detail in a free and frank manner and in this exchange of views the President did not hesitate to suggest what he regarded as reasonable means for a common understanding on the part of the two belligerents.

PRESIDENT TALKS PLAINLY TO RUSSIANS.

In his communications to the Russians setting forth his reason why there should be peace made at Portsmouth the President spoke plainly. He said with frankness that Russia had been beaten, and could gain nothing by going on with the war.

In the name of humanity he appealed for peace and made it clear that he believed the Japanese were showing a moderation which Russia should meet half way by assenting to buy back territory formerly belonging to Russia but now held by Japanese troops.

What more was said by the President, particularly that part of his proposal which is expected to meet with the approval of the world, will probably be disclosed shortly unless the belligerents manage to make up their differences and agree upon the terms of a peace treaty in the meantime.

The Russians here are not pleased over the President's attitude. They hold that he has gone to great lengths in an effort to induce them to pay for the cost of the war.

All the evidence now at hand shows that the President did not for a moment abandon his efforts to clear away the obstacles

that threatened the success of the Portsmouth conference.

THE ENVOYS HESITATE.

It is the great respect for his opinion and his enthusiastic endeavor to bring about peace that has caused the envoys, with the approval of the powers that be at Tokio and St. Petersburg, to hesitate in taking the deciding step toward a continuance of the war. The Russian and Japanese Governments were actuated also in this conservative course by a realization of the condemnation which they would risk from the civilized world if they rejected the plan which the President is now urging with all his might and main. Had it not been for the influence of the President the Portsmouth conference would have ended to-day and the war would have gone on.

To their high regard for Mr. Roosevelt and their desire to show appreciation for the friendship of the United States must be attributed the conciliatory spirit which has been shown by the Japanese in offering to sell back the northern part of Sakhalin Island to the Russians for an amount approximating \$600,000,000. The President was greatly pleased over this action of the Tokio Government and has not hesitated to say so to the Russians, as was indicated in the Portsmouth despatches printed in THE SUN this morning. He spoke of the Japanese proposal as "moderate," this being the exact word used, and showed that he believed it should be accepted.

A RUSSIAN OFFER.

Since then he has devoted his efforts almost entirely to an attempt to bring the Russians to make concessions, and the influence which he is wielding was demonstrated again to-day through the suggestion by the Russian plenipotentiaries of a willingness on their part to cede the entire island of Sakhalin to Japan if the latter Government would waive all claim to indemnity. It cannot be said that this counter proposal to the Japanese suggestion with regard to the purchase of Sakhalin was offered officially. The understanding is that "it was made known to the Japanese plenipotentiaries."

WITTE AND KOMURA HAVE A TALK.

To-day's formal conference was devoted almost entirely to perfecting the protocols that had not been compared and signed at the last meeting of the envoys, but afterward Mr. Witte and Baron Komura had a private conversation at which no others were present except the interpreters. Even Baron Rosen and Mr. Takahira did not attend.

The Russian and the Japanese envoys met at 5 o'clock this afternoon, after a recess since Wednesday. On that day Baron Komura had proposed that Russia buy back half of Sakhalin Island for \$600,000,000, and Mr. Witte had said very plainly that the suggestion was not acceptable, although his words were not taken as formal and final.

Accordingly the three days recess was agreed upon to enable the Russians to consider the situation and determine, if advisable upon a counter proposal. When the envoys met again to-day at the Portsmouth Navy Yard they started in without delay to finish the three protocols of previous sittings that had not been signed. The work of comparing the French texts made by the Russians and the English texts made by the Japanese occupied about an hour, and the protocols were then signed.

When the last signature had been affixed an awkward pause occurred, according to information obtained from one of the present, who is authority for the account that follows.

Evidently each side expected the other to make the next move. The understanding of the Japanese was that Mr. Witte would submit the counter proposal of Russia at this point, but he did not. Mr. Witte, however, relieved the situation by suggesting that a recess be taken for fifteen minutes and the Japanese readily agreed.

What was done during the recess has not been clearly explained, but when the time for reassembling came only Baron Komura and Mr. Witte appeared in the conference room. They talked for more than half an hour and when their conference was over the announcement was made that the envoys had taken an adjournment until 3 o'clock on Monday afternoon.

JAPAN MAY MAKE ANOTHER PROPOSAL.

The motion that the adjournment be taken was made by Baron Komura and Mr. Witte promptly assented.

In some quarters the fact that it was at the suggestion of the Japanese envoy that another session was arranged for is taken to mean that Japan will offer a new proposal to counteract Russia's willingness to cede Sakhalin if Japan does not insist upon an indemnity.

PRESIDENT HAS NOT GIVEN UP.

Continuing His Efforts to Bring Envoys to Agreement.

OYSTER BAY, N. Y., Aug. 26.—The President, it is known, is still hopeful that the gloomy aspect of the Portsmouth conference will yet change to a brighter hue. He is still in communication with both the Japanese and the Russian envoys.

It is believed here that the President has within the last day or two, made an important move in his efforts to secure peace and that he has hope that this will yet bear fruit.

It is assumed that to Baron Kamekura, who is now known to be Japan's confidential agent in this country, with more power perhaps than the Japanese Minister, President Roosevelt has put a further proposal that Japan make more concessions to Russia. He is also, it is thought, continuing his efforts to influence Russia's movements, so far as concerns the peace conference.

There is a firm conviction here that, thanks to the President's